

The Drayton Valley Western Review

www.draytonvalleywesternreview.com

\$1.25 Incl. GST

Yearly subscription \$38.00 plus GST



Tuesday, April 19, 2016



Woof Woof

Comedians took to stage at the annual...
Woof ever

33

Cancelled

Due to the economy, the annual tractor pull will not be going ahead this year.

17



Vol. 61 No. 18

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF MUSIC FEST



St. Anthony school students performed "Not a fan" at the Eleanor Pickup Arts Centre for the Drayton Valley K'n Club Performing Arts Festival. In this act, students portrayed what not to do at a hockey game while audience laughed and enjoyed the performance. Turn to page 15 for more pictures.

Mamta Lulla Western Review

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News

REA CELEBRATES 60 YEARS



Mamta Lulla Western Review
Drayton Valley Rural Electrification Association celebrated 60 years on Apr. 14 with a night of supper at Whitty Community Hall. The association organized its annual general meeting but celebrated 60 years by inviting both current and past board members. There were door prizes to be won as well, along with speeches from various members of the community.

Terrena Rizzoli, DD

Jenna Stephens, DD

RIZZOLI DENTURE & IMPLANT CLINIC
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780-591-1800 • rizzolidentureclinic.com

**DRAYTON VALLEY KIN CLUB
PERFORMING
ARTS FESTIVAL**

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE
ALL PERFORMANCES (EXCEPT BAND) WILL BE HELD AT THE ELEANOR PICKUP ARTS CENTRE (EPAC).
SESSION START TIMES ARE LISTED

MONDAY APRIL 11 SPEECH: 9:00 AM; 1:00 PM; 6:45 PM TUESDAY APRIL 12 MUSICAL THEATRE: 9:00 AM; 1:00 PM; 7:00 PM WEDNESDAY APRIL 13 RARE: 9:00 AM (HELD AT PARK BAND ROOM) INSTRUMENTAL: 10:45 AM (HELD AT EPAC) ADULT CHOIR: 7:30 PM THURSDAY APRIL 14 CHOIRS: 9:15 AM; 12:30 PM	MONDAY APRIL 18 SENIOR VOICE: 10:00 AM; 1:00 PM; 6:00 PM TUESDAY APRIL 19 JUNIOR VOICE: 9:00 AM; 1:05 PM WEDNESDAY APRIL 20 Piano: 9:00 AM; 1:30 PM; 6:30 PM THURSDAY APRIL 21 Piano: 9:00 AM; 1:30 PM FESTIVAL SHOWCASE THURSDAY APRIL 28, 7:00 PM
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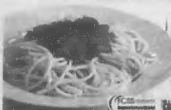
www.draytonvalley.ca

UP & COMING...

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT DRAYTON VALLEY MUNICIPAL LIBRARY
WOMEN'S WELLNESS SERIES:
Self Care Rituals with Denise Mussel - Serenity Spa
April 27 6:30-8:00 pm
Nutrition with Karen Sack
May 11 6:30 - 8:00 pm
POETRY NIGHT
April 20th 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Cowboy Poetry, Slam Poetry, Your Poetry
Have you written a poem or have one you love?
Come share it at the library during Poetry Night.
APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH
The theme this year is "The Road"
Write a poem with that theme and enter to win a prize. Draw to be made April 28
GARDENING SERIES
April 26 6:00-8:00pm
Small Space & Container Gardening with Joan
May 10 - Plant Swap & Garden Party

Come together COMMUNITY SUPPER

Times are tough but so are we



APRIL 21 Drayton Valley Legion
CONVERSATION (AND SPAGHETTI)
IS ON THE MENU
6:00 pm (doors open at 5:30pm)
FREE - ALL ARE WELCOME
Supper, conversation & children's activities
Information call 780-514-2204



THE CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
IS NOW ACCEPTING EVENT BOOKINGS.
WEDDINGS • CONFERENCES • WORKSHOPS • NETWORKING • TUTORING
This bright new space is available for your event. Call us today to book your event.
Call Laurie at 780-514-5788 to book!

Drayton Valley Municipal Library is looking for an ENTHUSIASTIC, ENERGETIC AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED INDIVIDUAL TO BE PROMOTE, AND FACILITATE A VARIETY OF SUMMER PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.
This position requires excellent organizational and communication skills as well as an interest in working with children. For a more detailed job description, please look on our website. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a secondary or post-secondary institution. Preference will be given to Library & Information Studies student. Elementary or Secondary Education or Early Childhood Development students will also be considered. Applicant must be returning to full-time study in the fall. This is a temporary position (30 hours/week for twelve weeks).
Resumes may be delivered, mailed, faxed or emailed to:
Drayton Valley Municipal Library
5120-52 street
Box 6240 Drayton Valley AB T7A 1B7
dvmle@draytonvalley.ca
Fax: 780-514-2332
Closing date: May 6, 2016
Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

**5TH ANNUAL
DRAYTON VALLEY
TRIATHLON**

Saturday May 7
Start/Finish: Rotary Park/Park Valley Pool

Drayton Valley Triathlon
www.zoned.ca
www.triathlon.ab.ca/

THE SPRINT TRIATHLON (ages 16+)
TRY IT! A shorter version of the sport will be available to anyone who wishes to try it.
DUATHLON (AGES 16+)
KIDS OF STEEL (AGES 4-15) For the kids there are kids of steel races that vary in distance with age groups. All children will be followed. Children under 12 must be closely supervised.
VOLUNTEERS
We need volunteers to make this a safe and fun race. You can volunteer online by going to zone.ca or by contacting us at sgoakley@zoned.ca

MAYOR
Glenis MacLean • 780-514-5568
mayor@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Nicole Nadeau • 780-514-5864
nnadeau@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Orham Long • 780-898-5494
olong@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Dean Shuler • 780-515-0110
dshuler@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Fayrell Wheeler • 780-898-3655
fwheeler@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Debra Bossert • 780-514-0868
dbossert@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Brandy Fredrickson • 780-888-1541
bfredrickson@draytonvalley.ca

NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
Wed. April 20, 2016
Council Chambers, Town Office • 9:00 am

NEXT GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES MEETING
Wed. April 20, 2016
Town Office • 1:00 pm

**Operation
Clean Sweep**

Join us for our annual Spring Clean-Up!
Friday, April 22 (Earth Day)
3:30 pm • Rotary House
Food & Refreshments will be provided after.
Register as an individual or group of 4-8.
The first 50 people to register will receive a free T-shirt.
Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
For more information or to register please contact:
Brenda at 780-514-2204 or brenda@draytonvalley.ca

Early Childhood Development Centre
780-514-2348
780-514-2322

More Office Centres 5148-52 Street | Tel. 780-514-2208 | Fax. 780-542-5793 | Box 6037 Drayton Valley T7A 1A1 | 8:30am - 4:30pm | 24hr Life Line 780-514-2220
Early Childhood Development Centre 780-514-2348 | Marlene's Customized Centre 780-514-2238 | Drayton Valley Library 780-514-2238
Park Valley Pool 780-514-2238 | Drayton Valley Library 780-514-2238
Drayton Valley Library 780-514-2238 | Drayton Valley Library 780-514-2238

News

The judges are coming

Cathy Weisman
Western Review

Two judges from Communities in Bloom will be in Drayton Valley from July 26 to 28.

For the 2016 National Edition of Communities in Bloom, Drayton Valley will be competing against communities with populations ranging from 4,501 to 9,000. These communities include Bay Roberts, Newfoundland; Humboldt, Saskatchewan; and Stenevik, Manitoba.

Below is information about the two judges who will be arriving in Drayton Valley on July 26. They will spend the following day judging the community and will leave on July 28.

The first judge is Scott Lundberg, a retired private care worker who hails from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Lundberg was born in Princeton and has had a lifelong affair with gardening and horticulture after visiting her uncle in his greenhouse in the Okanagan and visiting orchards of British Columbia.

Over the years, while raising a family and getting back into the work force, Lundberg had a large vegetable and flower garden in Dalrymple, a small town north of Saskatoon. She belonged to the Saskatchewan Horticultural Society and grew and showed vegetables and flowers for about 15 years before taking courses and becoming a Provincial Judge for Communities in Bloom. She also decided to take the Prairie Hor-

ticulture Certificate Program through the University of Saskatchewan and also teaches the Floral Design Program. Lundberg also became one of the first group of Master Gardeners to graduate from the U of S in 2000.

She has enjoyed all aspects of judging throughout the province for the Provincial Horticultural Society and its "communities in Bloom" for the past 12 years, including a summer of judging for Communities in Bloom across Canada in 2009.

She can tell at a glance, while travelling across Saskatchewan and other provinces, who is involved in Communities in Bloom as there is a sense of pride in the community, and with the growing together of the People, Places and Pride.

The second judge to visit is Gail Percory, President of MUN Botanical Garden Inc. in St. John's, Newfoundland.

In recent years, Percory's demonstrated love of nature, gardening and learning has been most apparent in her role as an active volunteer with the Friends of MUN Botanical Garden (FOG) Inc., a membership-based group that supports the horticultural, botanical, environmental and business goals of the Memorial University of Newfoundland's (MUN's) Botanical Garden. Her 19 years of involvement with FOG has overlapped with concurrent memberships in several other nature-based groups, including the Wildflower Society of New-

foundland and Labrador and the Newfoundland Horticultural Society. She has held Board and officer positions with all three volunteer groups and has assisted in judging in several of the horticultural Society's annual flower shows and the Town of Torbay's former Beautification Awards for residential gardens. She is a founding member of the Mystery Garden Tour working group, a new fundraising initiative launched in 2014 by FOG, MUN Botanical Garden, the Newfoundland Horticultural Society and Landscape Newfoundland and Labrador.

Percory has developed a good working knowledge of plants and landscaping through her extensive travels and completion of special interest courses at both the University of Guelph and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

A high energy individual with an eye for detail, her career has included extensive public and private sector experiences working for employers in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Alberta. Her business B Commerce and MBA background has allowed her to gain expertise in strategic planning, financial analysis, operations management, commercial lending as well as program development and evaluation.

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Clean up on Earth Day

Western Review

Bring your friends, neighbours and your colleagues to clean the streets.

The Town of Drayton Valley is arranging its annual community wide clean up on Earth Day by engaging volunteers, both adults and children.

Frank Maddock High School and Drayton Valley Community Outreach School were confirmed to be the two local schools involved in the project as of last week.

Students from both schools will be cleaning the surrounding area of their respective

schools. Other clean-up areas include west side of highway 22 from Aspen View Waste Management Facility going south to 34 Ave.

"We clean up areas that are in need of a cleanup which are many areas where there is garbage lying around. We all clean up and we come together afterwards for some refreshments," said Town of Drayton Valley sustainability coordinator Danielle Moulé.

After the clean-up there will also be a community sustainability presentation by Moulé.

This year, both blue and black bags will be given to volunteers. Moulé explained that

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Mark Smith, MLA
Drayton Valley-Devon

Constituency Office: 41368 - 38 Ave., Box 787, Drayton Valley, AB T7A 1S3
Phone: (780) 542-5555
Fax: (780) 542-5551

Satellite Office: Office 202 - Unit W, Robert Place, 4 Columbia Avenue W, Devon, AB T9G 1Y6
Phone: (780) 593-5999

www.assembly.ab.ca draytonvalley.devon.ca/assembly.ab.ca

DVPC

Please join us
Drayton Valley Paddle Club
Annual General Meeting
On Tuesday, April 26 at 6:30 PM
In the Provincial Building, Parks meeting room
5136-51 Ave. south-east entrance
Agenda items: Trips, Events, Paddle lessons
For more info: call Elaine (780) 514-4509

VITAL
Safety Training Ltd.

Now doing hearing tests and drug screening.
Please call us for details!

April 2016

Wed, April 20.....Fall Protection
Wed, April 20.....H2S Alive
Thur, April 21.....Emergency First Aid
Thur, Fri, April 21 & 22.....Standard First Aid
Sat, April 23.....Non-Restricted Firearms
Sun, April 24.....Restricted Firearms
Mon, April 25.....Emergency First Aid
Mon, Tues, April 25 & 26.....Standard First Aid
Wed, April 27.....H2S Alive
Thur, April 28.....Detection and Control
Mon, May 2.....Emergency First Aid
Mon, Tues, May 2 & 3.....Standard First Aid

780-542-2016
www.vitalsafetytraining.com
5203 - 80 Street, Drayton Valley

Brazeau County News
www.brazeau.ab.ca | 780-542-7777

Women in Business
Networking Event

April 28, 2016
5 pm - 7 pm
Roustabouts Pub
\$20 RSVP

Bring your business cards and your best two-minute pitch!

To register: wcompton@brazeau.ab.ca
RSVP by April 25, 2015

2016 Pitch In Program

It's once again time for community groups to "Pitch In" to keep our community looking its best. Brazeau County has funding available for community groups interested in taking part in the annual Pitch In Program. Funding is available for all areas in the County and groups will be supplied with safety gear and garbage bags for the roadside clean-up initiative.

Those interested in participating must supply a letter of interest and fill out an application form by visiting Brazeau County office or visiting www.brazeau.ab.ca.

Brazeau County, Box 77-7401 Hwy 16, 404, Drayton Valley, AB T7A 1H1. After Lisa Reid
Deadline to apply for the program is May 9th, 2016.
Clean up dates are from May 13th, 2016 to June 6th, 2016.

Upcoming News & Events

- April 26 - Municipal Planning Commission Meeting, starting at 9 a.m. in Council Chamber.
- May 3 - Council Meeting starting at 9 a.m. in Council Chamber. Open to the Public.
- May 9 - Special Council Meeting starting at 9 a.m. in Council Chamber. Open to the Public.
- Information about Brazeau County employment opportunities can be found in the employment section on our website, www.brazeau.ab.ca/departments/administration/employment.

The Change to Brazeau County Tax Due Date

Brazeau County has moved its tax due date to June 30.

To avoid penalty, taxes must be paid by that date, unless you are signed up for the Tax Instalment Payment Plan (TIPP).

The 2016 Consolidated Assessment Tax Notice will be mailed in mid-May.

If you are interested in the Tax Instalment Payment Plan, please call 780-542-7777 and speak to Taxation Co-ordinator Colin Swap.

Is the Tax Instalment Payment Plan right for you?

Brazeau County provides the opportunity for the payment of annual taxes on a monthly basis.

For those who prefer to budget throughout the year, Brazeau County offers the Tax Instalment Payment Plan (TIPP). The plan allows property owners to pay their property tax in monthly instalments instead of a single payment each year. Payments are withdrawn from your bank account on the last business day of the month.

It's easy to sign up! The only requirements are that you have chequing or saving privileges at a financial institution bank, trust company, treasury branch or credit union, and that you do not currently pay your taxes through a mortgage company (principal, interest and taxes (PIT) program).

If this program sounds like it fits your needs you can download the Tax Instalment Payment Plan application form from our website at <http://www.brazeau.ab.ca/community-hold/corporate-services/monthly-payment-plan>. Application forms are also available at the Brazeau County Administration Building.

For more information on our Tax Instalment Payment Plan, please contact our office at 780-542-7777 and ask to speak to Taxation Co-ordinator Colin Swap.

2016 Pitch In Program

It's once again time for community groups to "Pitch In" to keep our community looking its best. Brazeau County has funding available for community groups interested in taking part in the annual Pitch In Program. Funding is available for all areas in the County and groups will be supplied with safety gear and garbage bags for the roadside clean-up initiative.

Those interested in participating must supply a letter of interest and fill out an application form by visiting Brazeau County office or visiting www.brazeau.ab.ca.

Brazeau County, Box 77-7401 Hwy 16, 404, Drayton Valley, AB T7A 1H1. After Lisa Reid
Deadline to apply for the program is May 9th, 2016.
Clean up dates are from May 13th, 2016 to June 6th, 2016.

Upcoming News & Events

- April 26 - Municipal Planning Commission Meeting, starting at 9 a.m. in Council Chamber.
- May 3 - Council Meeting starting at 9 a.m. in Council Chamber. Open to the Public.
- May 9 - Special Council Meeting starting at 9 a.m. in Council Chamber. Open to the Public.
- Information about Brazeau County employment opportunities can be found in the employment section on our website, www.brazeau.ab.ca/departments/administration/employment.

2016 Pitch In Program

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LETTERS POLICY

To be considered for publication, letters to the editor must include the full name of the author for print and an address and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for length, content, grammar, spelling and libel. We will not print anonymous letters. As a local newspaper we focus on local events and our letters section is reserved for residents in our readership area. Letters can be e-mailed to CWeerman@postmedia.com or dropped off at our office during business hours.



Brazeau County News

www.brazeau.ab.ca | 780-542-7777

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that Brazeau County Council has given first reading to Bylaw 901-16 to amend the existing Direct Control Bylaw 737-10 regulating the use and development of the property legally described as Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 942 3297 within NE 33-45-7-W5M as shown on the accompanying map. Bylaw 901-16 will allow Automotive and Equipment Body Repair to occur on the lands and to add a definition for "Automotive and Equipment Body Repair".

FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that Brazeau County Council will hold a Public Hearing at which any person claiming to be affected by the proposed designation may ask questions or make their views known. **The Public Hearing will be held on May 3, 2016 at 10:00 am** or as soon thereafter as possible in the Council Chambers of Brazeau County office at 7401 Township Road 484, Drayton Valley, Alberta, T7A 1R1.

Any written submission mailed or delivered to Brazeau County, Box 72, 7401 Township Road 484, Drayton Valley, Alberta, T7A 1R1 or faxed to 780-542-7770 by 4:30 p.m., April 22, 2016, will be included in the Council Report. Written and oral submissions may also be made at the Council meeting without prior notification to Brazeau County. Copies of the written submissions received will be provided to Council for consideration. Please note that personal information (address, phone numbers, email address, signature, etc.) will be redacted as per the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act; however, names will still appear with the submission.

A copy of Bylaw 901-16, including Direct Control Bylaw 737-10 and the Direct Control District are available for public inspection at the Brazeau County Office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For further information, please contact Planning & Development by telephone (780) 542-2887 or by e-mail at planning@brazeau.ab.ca.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

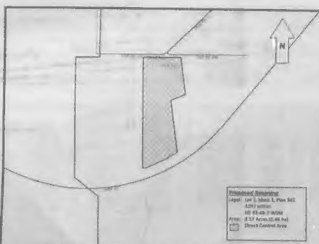
TAKE NOTICE that Brazeau County Council has given first reading to Bylaw 898-16 to amend the "Brazeau County and Town of Drayton Valley Inter-municipal Development Plan" (IDP) by replacing Figure 5: Proposed Growth Management Strategy map, and Figure 6: Future Land Use Concept maps. The proposed map for Figure 5 identifies the existing Poplar Ridge Manufactured Home Park for residential growth rather than non-residential, while the proposed map for Figure 6 indicates the future land use concept as Country Residential zoning rather than Light Industrial.

FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that Brazeau County Council has given first reading to Bylaw 899-16 to amend the "Poplar Ridge Area Structure Plan" (ASP) to allow for continued use of the existing Poplar Ridge Manufactured Home Park.

FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that Brazeau County Council will hold a Public Hearing at which any person claiming to be affected by the proposed changes may ask questions or make their views known. **The Public Hearing for Bylaw 898-16 will be held on June 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. and the Public Hearing for Bylaw 899-16 will be held on June 21, 2016 at 10:15 a.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible in the Council Chamber of Brazeau County office at 7401 Township Road 484, Drayton Valley, Alberta, T7A 1R1.

Any written submission mailed or delivered to Brazeau County, Box 72, 7401 Township Road 484, Drayton Valley, Alberta, T7A 1R1 or faxed to 780-542-7770 by 4:30 p.m., May 11, 2016, will be included in the Council Reports. Written and oral submissions may also be made at the Council meeting without prior notification to Brazeau County. If you make a written submission, the information you provide may be made public subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Copies of Bylaw 898-16, Bylaw 899-16, the current IDP, and the current Poplar Ridge ASP are available for public inspection at the Brazeau County Office between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For further information, please contact Planning & Development by telephone (780) 542-2887 or by e-mail at planning@brazeau.ab.ca.



PLEASE BE ADVISED THE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR BRAZEAU COUNTY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENT PERMIT WITH CONDITIONS:

File: 16D-008

Proposit: Existing Campground and Associated Accessory Buildings & Proposed Accessory (Kioskhouse) - variance to 1:100 year flood plain setback

Location: Pt. SE 10-45-7-WM

Date: Issued April 7, 2016. www.brazeau.ab.ca/development

Written notice of an appeal against a decision of the Development Authority, containing reasons for the appeal, and a \$260.00 appeal fee must be received by the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeals Board, either by hand or registered mail, at the Office of Brazeau County no later than 14 days after the date of newspaper publication. For further information, please contact the Planning and Development Department at: 780-542-2887.



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Comment

The Drayton Valley
Western Review

PAROLA ALLAN Regional Director of (Biomass)
780-779-3877 ext. 72101 or 780-942-4252 ext. 207
parola@postmedia.com
CATHY WESTMAN Editor
cwestman@postmedia.com
BILLY HERRING, Multi-Media Sales Consultant
bherrin@postmedia.com

Box 5960, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1S3 • P: 780-542-5300 • Fax 780-542-9200

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POSTMEDIA Canada

our editorial

Lets pull together to beautify Drayton Valley

With spring officially here, Drayton Valley has a mere three months to spruce up before the National Communities in Bloom Judges arrive in late July.

This begs the question, can all the sprucing up be done in time, according to the evaluation forms sent to the Communities in Bloom committee here.

The 2016 evaluation form indicates scoring is based on eight criteria, divided into six sections, assessing in four sectors of the community.

The six sections are: tidiness, environmental action, heritage conservation, urban forestry, landscape and floral displays and the evaluation totals up to 1,000 points.

On the tidiness evaluation form, this includes an overall tidiness effort by the municipality, businesses, institutions and the residents throughout the community. Elements for evaluation are parks and green spaces, medians, boulevards, sidewalks, streets, municipal, commercial, institutional and residential properties; ditches, road shoulders, vacant lots, signs and buildings; weed control, litter cleanup (including cigarette butts and gum), graffiti prevention/removal

and vandalism deterrent programs. The maximum amount of points in this section is 150.

By looking over the evaluation form, this seems to indicate that a lot of work must be put into cleaning up the town prior to the judges visit. According to the section related specifically to tidiness, effort must be put in by the municipality, businesses, institutions and residents.

Since the town motto is Pulling Together, no doubt there will be dozens of residents willing to help this cause and people who haven't volunteered before usually just need to be asked in person.

In his column (elsewhere in this paper) Mark Cullen advises gardeners to start pulling weeds from their yards and gardens as soon as possible in order to prevent them from spreading. This sounds like a job that can easily be accomplished individually, right now, as well as picking up litter off sidewalks and ditches.

When we move into late spring and early summer, the chores will become more frequent and possibly even harder, but with the leadership of the local Communities in Bloom Committee showing the way, many hands will indeed make light work.



Saving all my wishes



Mamta's Musings
Mamta Lulla

terms of the grand scheme of things.

Imagine though, what if we are all given a bowlful of wishes on Earth and we are wasting them away by getting too caught up in a moment and wishing for things that really don't matter.

Some people, well, let me say the short list of wishes that really don't matter. These people without any awareness or the guilt of making the other person wait. These wishes are pointless. Perhaps not in that moment, but I am speaking in

to look at the bigger picture once a day.

This happens usually when I go to bed. I ask myself the simplest of questions such as what do I really want, and the answers around me. I have always placed importance on my work and ambition that I always believed that such questions would yield answers around career. But they don't.

Another way I see the bigger picture and see what really matters to me is by asking myself if the thought or concern on my mind would be as much as make a chapter of itself if my life were a book. Usually, the answer is no and I know exactly what to do: let it go. If it's not a chapter, it shouldn't be a concern.

If we really are given a certain number of wishes per life I really am going to try to save all my wishes for the utmost important things in life. Maybe the saying: be careful what you wish for, has a whole different meaning after all.

News

WHAT HAPPENED THEN: May 14, 1975

The Pop Shoppe

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Western Review archives

There was a Pop Shop that helped chill the hot summer afternoons in 1975 in Drayton Valley. The shop was located on 58th Ave.

Albertans

The story of Alberta is the story of economic enterprise. Throughout history, our economic development has always depended upon the risk-taking, creativity, and enterprise of individuals—whether trappers, buffalo hunters, ranchmen, farmers, shopkeepers, or those who work with modern commercial corporations. It has also depended upon the development, trading, buying, and selling of resources—both renewable and nonrenewable.

In terms of permanent settlement (towns and cities) there wasn't much to speak of in our province a couple hundred years ago. In the 1770s, the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) built Cumberland House, its first western Canadian trading post. Also among the first were The North West Company's Fort Augustus and the HBC's Edmonton House. The purpose of these early trading posts was commercial enterprise—resources, lack there, wealth was often measured in terms of pelts, furs, and hides—just as we now associate wealth with oil, gas, wheat, and beef.

And often overlooked fact is that many of our earliest entrepreneurs were First Nations. Some tribes traded with the HBC as early as the seventeenth century, gaining access to trade goods, blankets, guns, and metal products, which they acquired in exchange for

pelts, furs, and hides. As a result, these tribes were able to play an enhanced role in the emerging economy. Their newfound wealth enabled them to act as intermediaries, trading goods with individuals and tribes from greater distances.

The Metis also engaged in commercial enterprise. To be sure, the buffalo hunt supplanted them with food, but hides were a valuable commodity for them to trade and sell. The Metis community at Hall Creek (near present-day Red Deer) was the most vibrant in the region, consisting of about 800 crude adobe and cabins. Around the buffalo herds, its population would swell to over 1,000.

With the demise of the buffalo, Ottawa entered into treaties and agreements with various tribes, and the North West Mounted Police arrived in the 1870s. The big ranches followed in the 1880s—the Corbaine Ranch, Daley, Bar U, and others—bringing cowboy culture and massive cattle herds from the south.

Also in the 1880s, the federal government passed legislation relating to the thousands of homesteaders and their families. Not all of these homesteaders were farmers. Many came to run small businesses in the emerging communities. They were druggists, harness makers, blacksmiths, restaurant owners, lawyers, doctors, and other business-

mined pioneers.

As our province moved into the twentieth century, oil and gas were discovered. Here, too, individuals harnessed natural resources, delivering them to people in a way that was usable and valuable. In the ensuing years, Alberta blossomed. Based on the willingness of men and women to invest their money, take risks, and apply their creativity to the harnessing of resources (be it oil, grain, beef, or otherwise) we became the economic engine of the entire nation.

Of late, we've seen a shift in Alberta. Many in government today assume that economic development flows from government itself—that growth occurs when governments tax people (carbon tax, income tax, etc.) and spend the money on political initiatives. They don't seem to recognize the province's historical relationship between resource development and wealth. They also overlook centuries of evidence that Alberta's prosperity has always been based on the investment, creativity, and the enterprise of individual Albertans.

The following article was co-completed by a small group of Official Opposition MLCs who each wrote, put together to talk through a legislative policy issue. As part of the process, a short commentary is compiled and then edited.

Need to get something off your chest?
E-mail letters to the editor to cwestman@postmedia.com

Easyford Community Centre Pancake Breakfast

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Time: 9am - 11am
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Cost: Family - \$35
Adult - \$10
6-12 Yrs - \$6
5 and under FREE



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News

MUD MEN AT THE MAX



Justine Kimodan Western Review
A Canadian Celtic rock band, Mud Men, paid a visit to Drayton Valley to entertain at the Max Centre on April 9. This award-winning band was formed in 1996 by the Campbell brothers. Mud Men is composed of Robby Campbell, Sandy Campbell, Jeremy Burton, Mike Meacher, Dan Westmenick and Jack McPhee.



Got a news tip?

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News

Drayton Valley to have its first film festival

Justine Kinoshin
Western Review

The Frames Film Festival will take place on May 27 and 28 at the Bleanor Pickup Arts Centre. The festival will feature the works of local filmmakers as well as films from Ontario and the United States.

There will be some filmmakers coming from Edmonton and they will present the film, and talk about it a little bit. We are also going to ask for some local submissions and we will show those, too. There will also be a prize for the best local submission," said event organizer Eileen Colwell.

The festival will be an opportunity for filmmakers to showcase their works in town. "There are a lot of locals interested in filmmaking and we want everyone to have a chance to show what they have made or cre-

ated," said Colwell. "Everyone has cellphones and places to share their films but we want for them to be awarded for their work and get to see what other people create in town. It can be really fun."

Anyone interested in submitting a film for the festival can visit framesfilmfest.com for a complete guideline on how to submit a film entry.

"They can go to the website and there are instructions on how to submit and where to submit," said Colwell. "There is no theme but there are rules on the website as to what you can do but it is open to anyone who has an idea and wants to create a film."

Tickets will be on sale for \$10 for one day or \$15 for both days. Colwell encourages everyone to come out to the event.

"They will be supporting local filmmakers in our community and it will be really, really fun," he said.

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with a bowl, spoon, and a napkin for \$2," said Koryk. "Proceeds from the cook off will benefit a local non-profit group and support a little friendly competition. Awards will be presented for Judge's Favourite, People's Choice, and Team Spirit."

According to Koryk, the town is hoping that community members will support this event and hopefully bring it back again next year.

"This is the first year for the Drayton Valley Farm and Ranch Expo. We are hoping it will become an annual event," she said. "We feel that it is important to showcase that agriculture is still a leading industry in our area. We also wanted to provide a low cost event for the entire community to enjoy."

Anyone interested in participating as a contestant in the Chili Cook Off or as a vendor for the trade show can contact (780) 514-2506 or events@draytonvalley.ca.

"We are currently challenging local businesses and groups to challenge their business for a friendly game of 'who did it best?'" There is no cost to register your team in the Chili Cook Off," Koryk said. "We are also looking for farm, ranch, and western-related vendors for the trade show."

Justine Kinoshin
Western Review

Town of Drayton Valley and area residents will have a chance to purchase and obtain agricultural products and services at the first Farm and Ranch Expo that will take place from April 30 to May 1. The expo, which will be held at the Drayton Valley Omniplex, is being organized by the Town of Drayton Valley.

"The Drayton Valley Farm and Ranch Expo is an inexpensive way to get out and embrace what this community has to offer," said events administrator Koryk Koryk. "The trade show will offer exposure to people and organizations that previously may not have had the opportunity to reach their target audience. For people seeking agricultural related products and services, the trade show will be a one-stop shop."

To kick off the expo, a Chili Cook Off will be held on April 29 at the Drayton Valley Omniplex parking lot.

Bidding will take place at 11:30 a.m. and bowls will be available for purchase from noon to 2 p.m. Attendees will be supplied

News

PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL



Various performances as part of the Drayton Valley Kid Club Performing Arts Festival included musical theatre, choir, speech etc. The festival started on Apr. 11 with the festival showcase planned for Apr. 28.

Mamta Luthra Western Review

DRAYTON VALLEY PRO RODEO

Ron Horden
Memorial
High Point
Award

April 29, 30 & May 1, 2016
Drayton Valley Omniplex

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News

High winds blamed for brush fires

Tulley Westman
Western Review

Around 5 p.m. on April 7, Breton Station 2 responded to an outside fire, approximately two acres in size, which crews were able to extinguish. The cause of the fire is believed to be an ATV driving through the area.

On April 7 crew responded to a grass fire on Range Road 71. The cause was a tree striking a power line.

Four fire calls were caused by high winds that blew through the area on April 8.

Breton Station responded to a grass fire on Range Road 43 that was believed to have started by a tree coming in contact with a power line.

Lodgepole Station 1 responded to a fire in the community started by a downed power line.

Drayton Valley Station 3 responded to a fire on Beckett Road started by

a downed power line.

On Range Road 83, Station 3 responded to another downed power line caused by high winds.

At 1 p.m., fire crews responded to a commercial building on 56th Street after the fire alarm went off. This turned out to be a false alarm caused by a short circuit in the system.

On April 9 Lodgepole Station crews responded to an outside fire on Range Road 100. Crews extinguished a small grass fire.

On April 10 Breton 2 station responded to a small grass fire. An officer driving by noticed the fire and extinguished it with minimal resources. An initial investigation noted it could have been caused by a discarded cigarette or vehicle exhaust.

On April 11 Drayton Valley fire crews responded to a motor vehicle collision that took place on 48th Street. No injuries were reported.

It's grass fire season

The fire department would like to remind residents who are starting to do some spring cleaning around their homes that conditions are very dry and that a Fire Advisory is currently in effect. A Fire Advisory occurs when the fire hazard in the area is Moderate to High. Wildfires can start from most accidental causes and spread moderately quickly through dry brush and grasses. Fire crews should be able to contain a wildfire with minimum support. Wildfires not suppressed immediately can still become very serious fires. Burning permits are still being issued by the town and county. Outdoor burning is permitted only with a fire permit or in an approved fire pit or burning appliance. If conditions change, status of the Fire Advisory and burning permits will also change.

Residents can visit the following websites for more information: www.braxton.ab.ca; www.drif.ca; www.albertafire.ca.

Kids Fire Camp on again
Registration for the department's annual kids' fire camp begins May 2. The camp only has

space for 32 children between the ages of eight and 12. Parents can register their children by calling the office at 780-514-2216.

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Share some spaghetti with the community

Monica Lufka
Western Review

There will be a free community supper for 200 people at the Drayton Valley Legion Hall.

"Our goal is that although the community is struggling right now, that people leave the evening feeling connected and hopeful," said communications and marketing coordinator Tyler Russell.

Last year, the Town of Drayton Valley hosted a workshop

about resiliency when Dr. Michael Ungar came to Drayton Valley. He spoke to parents in the community to raise resilient children and he spoke to the community about building a resilient community.

"One of the strategies that he recommended was that when times are tough, it is important to provide an opportunity for people to connect with one another, so that's what we want to do," said Russell. Drayton Valley and District FCS

and the Healthy Community Coalition are hosting the event. Ungar will be speaking briefly and facilitating discussion at the event.

"If the outcome from this dinner is what we expect, that people leave feeling connected and hopeful, then we intend to host more community suppers," said Russell.

The free supper will be at the Legion Hall at 4 p.m. on fine come, first serve basis at 6 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

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News

Tractor pull on hold

Monica Lufka
Western Review

Drayton Valley's Heavy Iron Truck and Tractor Pull won't go ahead this year.

"The club's feeling is we didn't want to go out and get sponsorship from companies in Drayton Valley who can't keep their employees working. Instead of trying to go out and get sponsorship, we will postpone it for a year," said co-chair of the Heavy Iron Truck and Tractor Pull committee Dylan Fuchs.

The event is run by the Drayton Valley Lions Club and it has been running for the past three years.

Fuchs has been speaking with people on social media and he confirmed that the community has been understanding of the decision that has been made.

"It's not good but people understand because people don't necessarily have the money to be spending to come out to these things either," he

said. The organizers will host the event next year after considering the economic situation.

Another event that has been caused this year is the midway organized by West Coast Amusement that comes to Drayton Valley every year and has been in existence for a long time.

The reason for the midway to not come to Drayton Valley this year is not due to the economy. The organizers had a death in the family which led to the decision. The organizer who looks after the event in Drayton Valley had to go to B.C. and look after the affairs there.

"The fellow that runs our midway here had to go to B.C. and look after the affairs there. It has nothing to do with the economy," said Fuchs.

The club has tried various other avenues to bring in other organizers but it hasn't worked out.

Both events run by the Drayton Valley Lions Club are organized in Drayton Valley in the beginning of June.

Local volunteers lead the fight against diabetes

Special to the Western Review

Each spring, community volunteers step forward to help raise funds and awareness for a growing Canadian health crisis. Diabetes is at epidemic proportions, with an estimated 3.5 million Canadians diagnosed including more than 303,000 from Alberta. Support for the Canadian Diabetes Association's (CDA) door-to-door campaign can make a difference in the lives of those living with or at risk of developing diabetes. The campaign runs from April 4 to 25, 2016.

Every year, devoted volunteers canvass to collect donations that fund the Canadian Diabetes Association's work in research, education, programs, services and advocacy. Diabetes is a complex disease with many causes and no known cure. If you don't have it, there is a good chance someone in your family or circle of friends is affected. Volunteers help spread the word about the seriousness of diabetes and engage the community in making a difference," says Karen Franco, community engagement manager (Alberta) for the CDA. "For almost 15 years, our door-to-door campaign has made it possible for us to provide local support, research and educational programs and now more than ever we need your support."

Sue Helmick has been canvassing for the CDA for four years. By her own admission she is "not usually one for canvassing, but this seemed up my alley" because like many of our volunteers, Sue has a personal connection that makes volunteering

was diagnosed with diabetes at 80, so my family and I quickly learned about checking blood sugar levels, insulin injections, etc."

Volunteer canvassers will be clearly identified via buttons and lanyards and will display red CDA canvassing kits. They will be able to issue temporary tax receipts at the door (official receipts will follow) and provide information about the CDA.

Proceeds raised from this campaign will fund leading-edge diabetes research and innovative educational programs in Alberta. Proceeds are additionally used to help send local children with type 1 diabetes to the CDA's D-Camp Jean Nelson in Alberta. CDA is the only national organization to operate camps for children living with type 1 diabetes in the country. D-Camps provide children living with type 1 diabetes, an authentic and exciting camp experience where they also take steps to becoming independent in managing their diabetes. For many campers, D-Camps is the only place where they spend time with other children living with type 1 diabetes. Parents also have peace of mind knowing that their children are monitored by a dedicated team of trained medical professionals who are available around the clock. This team includes doctors, nurses and dietitians. The team works closely with the campers and counselors, many of whom also have type 1 diabetes, to provide the highest level of diabetes care.

For more information on how you can get involved as a volunteer or donate, visit diabetes.ca

We're packed and on the move!

NorQuest College in Drayton Valley is moving to the new Clean Energy and Technology Centre and will be open for the start of spring term on May 2.

Please note, the current campus offices will be closed April 18-29.

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News

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT



Mamba Latta Western Review

Various volunteers and volunteer organizations were appreciated and patting on the back for their hard work in the community. There was plenty of laughter at the MacKenzie Conference Centre, courtesy of Denny Hooper. The annual event also provided dinner and was put together by Drayton Valley FCS.



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Local archers brought home bronze medals

Justine Kimoden
Western Review

Twenty-four archers from St. Anthony School brought home bronze medals from the Canadian National Archery in the Schools Program tournament held from March 10 to 12 in Edmonton.

A total of 66 archers from St. Anthony School, from both elementary and middle school divisions, competed at the tournament in both the individual and team categories.

One of the elementary teams from St. Anthony School scored a total of 2,449 points and earned bronze, while one of the middle school teams from St. Anthony School earned a total of 2,773 points and bagged the fifth spot out of 25 teams. Other archers worth noting are Rebekah Peguin who ranked 17 out of 301 in middle school girls' division, Dawson Boxer who ranked 44 out of 346 in middle school boys' division, Brandon Brown who ranked six out of 246 in the elementary boys' division, and Naveed Holinsky who ranked four out of 194 in the elementary girls' division.

Heather Romblin, St. Anthony School's archery coach, said she is proud of the achievements St. Anthony School's archery accomplished.

"I am so happy for the students. I can hardly speak. I think I get more excited than the archers," she said. "As a coach, I am very pleased with the performance of all our archers. Officials at the tournament were pleased at the level of skill for archery and the team's teamwork demonstrated."

Blaire Fawcett, archer and Grade 4 student at St. Anthony School, said the coaches trained the archers twice a week before competing at the tournament.

"We trained for the nationals by shooting a lot. We got to shoot on Wednesdays and Fridays," said Fawcett. "The coaches also helped a lot by telling us where to aim."

Parents of St. Anthony School's archers were present at the tournament to support the competitors.

"We were all there to cheer them on," said Jody Smith, Fawcett's mother. "It is a really good program and I'm glad it was brought to Drayton Valley."

Archers at St. Anthony School are now training for the provincial tournament which will take place in town from April 27 to 30.

"We very much look forward to provincials," said Romblin. "Last year, one of our elementary teams earned bronze at provincials and we hope to repeat and better that."



Justine Kimoden Western Review

Pictured above is the group of archers from St. Anthony School who brought home bronze medals from the Canadian National Archery in the Schools Program tournament held in Edmonton from March 10 to 12.

Stock car racing returning to Brazeau County

Cathy Woolman
Western Review

Stock car racing is coming back to Brazeau County with the re-opening of a speed track under a new name. Located near Rocky Rapids, the refurbished track will be re-opening under the new name of Drayton Valley Speedway.

Manager Brandon Murray said the track gives racers an opportunity to bring another event to Drayton Valley.

The opening date of the dirt track is scheduled for June 4, and the following day at 1 p.m. there will be stock car, sprint car and late model racing.

To date, the biggest challenge for Murray and his team is cutting down 10 years' worth of grass and foliage surrounding the track and raking up the track itself. Bleachers also need to be moved back to their original location.

For more information, readers can go to MPPRacing.com

Need to get something off your chest?

E-mail letters to the editor to cwoolman@postmedia.com

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News

LET'S TALK ABOUT CAREER AND JOBS



Mamba Lulla Western Review
2016 Interactive Career and Education Expo took place all day on Apr. 12 with student hours in the morning and general public in the afternoon. It was the perfect opportunity for those who were considering a career change or upgrading their skills.



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News

COMEDY SHOW AT THE LEGION HALL



Justine Kimodan Western Review
 The fifth annual Raise the Wool was held on April 8 at the Legion Hall. The event was put on by Cause for Critters as a fundraiser. Three comedians: Cory Mack, Ben Probst & Shawn Gramiak entertained event attendees of the sold out show. There was also a silent auction held at the event.

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Community events

Lindale Hall Mother's Day pancake breakfast, May 8 at 9 a.m.

Music Jambooree upstairs at Drayton Valley 55+ Recreation Centre held the last Sunday of every month. Doors open at 12 noon and jam starts at 1 p.m. For more information phone 780-542-3768.

Mondays

- Sit and Get Fit exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St.). Exercises done from a chair. All seniors welcome.
- First and third - Brain Injury Support Group meets @ Midsix at 12:30 p.m.
- Bingo at the Drayton Valley Legion. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
- Line dancing @ the Scout Hall, 7-8:30 p.m.
- Bingo Tomahawk Area Centre, doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo at 7:30 p.m. 780-335-2423 or 780-339-1747 for information.
- 1st Monday**
- DV Art Club meetings, 7 p.m. 542-7320.
- Kin-Club meetings, (780) 621-0517.

Tuesdays

- Anger busters everyone. DV Family Support & Intervention Program, women's group, 7-9 p.m. 542-6702 for more info.
- 1st & 3rd Tuesday
- Royal Purple meetings, Westwind Motor Inn (upstairs), 7:30 p.m. Morna @ 542-2854 for info.
- 2nd Tuesday**
- Media Cultural Youth Society meets @ 7 p.m. at PMHS Outreach. 780-542-9396 for more info.
- Pre-school swim, 12-12:40 p.m. @ DV Pool. 586-2543 for info.

Wednesdays

- Derrick Toastmasters meet 7-8:30 p.m. @ NorQuest College Campus. Everyone welcome. Call Marc @ 780-729-4932 for more info.
- Sit and Get Fit exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St.). Exercises done from a chair. All seniors welcome.
- DV Family Support & Intervention Program, men's group, 7-9 p.m. 542-6702.
- DVPS meetings, 12-2 @ Church of God. 542-4288, 542-7853.
- Warming Hearts Soup Kitchen, 11:30-1:30 @ Drayton Valley Royal Canadian Legion.
- 1st Wednesday**
- Brazen National Search and Rescue @ 7 p.m. Don @ 780-542-2817, new members welcomed.

• Buck Creek Community Assoc. general meetings

• Women in the Wind meets @ River Rock (Super 8), 7 p.m.

2nd Wednesday

• DV Citizens on Patrol Society (COPS) meets, 7 p.m. Visit www.draytonvalleycop.com to get involved.

3rd Wednesday

• Jambores @ Wildwood Community Hall. Doors open 6:30 p.m.

• DV Genealogical Society meets, 7 p.m. @ Wishing Well. For information call 780-542-2787.

4th Wednesday

• Max Performing Arts Centre board meeting, 3:45 p.m. on Max mezzanine.

• Wildwood Community Hall board meets, 7:30 p.m. @ the hall.

Last Wednesday

• DV & District Cancer Support Group meets, 11:30 a.m. @ Alpha room, Westwind, Howard @ 780-542-2735 and Fern @ 780-542-5416 for info.

• DV and District Historical Society meets, 1 p.m. at senior's drop-in centre.

Thursdays

• Narcotics Anonymous meetings, 7 p.m. @ United Church

• Brighter Futures Indoor Playground in Violet Grove, 10-11:30 a.m. Call 780-514-5070 or 780-696-2543 for more information.

• Drayton Valley Fine Art Society PAINT IN! NOON at the Lutheran Church

2nd Thursday

• Masonic Lodge meetings, 7:30 p.m. @ the hospital

• General meeting for Entwistle Community Hall @ the hall starting @ 7:30 p.m. except June, July, August.

3rd Thursday

• DV Hearts & Hands Quilters' Guild at Emmaus Lutheran Church, at 7 p.m.

• Northern Thunder Classic Car Club meet every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Speedy Glas.

• Sit and Get Fit exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St.) Exercises done from a chair.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets in the basement of the Church of God from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Connie @ 780-621-4466 for information.

Saturdays

• Fun crio tournament, 1 p.m. Big T Golf Club in Breton.

Need to get something off your chest?

E-mail letters to the editor to cweetman@postmedia.com

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Drayton Valley Church of God 100th
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Ph. 780-542-5091
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WORSHIP SERVICE: Sun. @ 11:00 am
YOUTH: Fri. at 7:00 p.m. during the school year
1st service is school bus available service.

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The Anglican Parish of All Saints'
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Pastors: Mark & Lynne Edmonstone
REV. MIRANDA SUTHERLAND
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10:30 a.m. - Family Enchirial (host of Communion Service)
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School (every Sunday Sept. - June)

Ignited Church & Ministries
4851 - 41 Avenue
Pastors: Mark & Lynne Edmonstone
SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 a.m.
Please call our office at 780-542-5843
Email: ignitedchurch@telus.net

Real Estate

Weeds: public enemy number 1

I love to garden. Maybe you love to garden too. All of us know some people who love to garden. So is there anything about gardening that gardeners really don't like? Yes. Weeding.

Weeding is to gardening what changing diapers is to parenting. I love my kids and would not change a thing about having them. But changing diapers was not a lot of fun, except the cuddly part at the end when I lifted them off the change table for a kiss.

The difference between diaper changing and weeding is that with weeds we have a lot of options to minimize the task. With diaper changing, not so much.

My top 5 tips for minimizing weeding:

1. Start early. Right now the soil is warming up as it does every spring. The winter-moisture in the soil and increasing warmth provides the perfect environment for seed germination. True for the desirable kind like peas, carrots, onions and radishes (all of which can be sown in the garden now) and weed seeds. After a weed seed germinates, it puts down a root, which provides a conduit for soil borne moisture and nutrients. The root also anchors the plant, preventing it from blowing away in a high wind. The deeper the root, the more difficult it is to eliminate the weed.

Early in the season, I sharpen my battery of weeding tools to prepare for my assault on garden weeds. I use a banister file to keep an edge on my hoe (and now, my new Back Hoe). It makes all the difference.

Cutting down weeds this time of year stops them in their tracks; they have nowhere to go but "weed heaven" because the root is not deep enough to save the weed plant. Hoe early.

2. Plant densely. One of the best defenses against weeds is to choke them out. Where lawn weeds are concerned, I recommend that you use a quality lawn seed mix to overseed your lawn in the weed infested areas to compete them out of existence. Be sure to put down 2 to 3 cm of lawn soil, rake it smooth, broadcast the seed, rake it smooth and step on the works with flat soled shoes. Water until germination and the root is well established.

Where your garden is concerned, the best way to prevent weeds without the use of weed killers is to place your plants close together when planting. This "overcrowding" will require that you pull out the odd plant in future or cut them back aggressively when they grow together, but you will pull a lot fewer weeds in the mean time!

3. Mulch. Ahh! The miracle of mulch. I love finely ground up cedar and pine bark mulch for weed prevention. When it is spread about 6 to 8 cm thick it insulates the surface

of the soil from the heating rays of the sun. It provides a barrier to weed seeds in the soil, preventing the majority of them from germinating in the first place. A thick layer of natural mulch will prevent more than 90% of weeds from becoming established. Many perennial weeds like witch grass and Canada thistle will push through a layer of mulch but it is much easier to pull them out of the loose mulch than it is from the garden soil. Pull the weed, shake the mulch off the roots and get rid of it.

4. Manage water. We tend to overwater our gardens. In fact about 9 out of 10 plant "problems" are the result of overwatering. Weeds thrive in moist conditions; the more that you water the more weeds grow. Let established plants (i.e. the ones that you just planted) become dry between watering, if you water them at all. Our weather provides a reasonably reliable source of water in the form of rain, so be patient and let Mother Nature do her job. Your mature plants will generally be fine.

While I am on the topic, here is a reminder to set up your rain barrels for the season. The warm, oxygen rich water in a rain barrel is loved by all of your garden plants, especially the ones growing in containers.

5. Landscape fabric. Don't use this stuff in the garden. The label reads, "Weed barriers" as if laying it down will miraculously stop all weeds from pushing through. Truth is, organic material gathers on the top of the fabric over time, whether you place mulch over it or not, and weeds germinate in that organic material regardless. They put down roots through the landscape fabric and now you have a mess on your hands. Try pulling mulch grass out of this stuff. Landscape fabric is good for laying under patio stones or interlocking bricks.

Just imagine if you bury my top four suggestions and avoid using landscape fabric (point #5) you will have a lot

more time for changing diapers! Or whatever.
Mark Cullen is an expert gardener, author and broadcaster. Get his free monthly newsletter at markcullen.com. Look for his new best seller, "The New Canadian Garden" published by Dundurn Press. Follow him on Twitter @MarkCullen and Facebook.

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